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TO: EUR - Mr. Merchant
FROM: EUR - Foy D. Kohler
SUBJECT: Four Power Working Group Meetings

The Four Power Working Group convened under my chairmanship on Wednesday, February 4, and after a series of ten sessions adjourned on Friday, February 13. During this period a Drafting Committee also met several times on an informal basis.

The first six meetings of the Working Group were largely given over to the preparation of a reply to the Soviet Note of January 10, 1959, and related instructions to the British, French and United States Ambassadors in Moscow. The major problem in connection with drafting replies to the Soviet note was the French position on the role to be played by the Germans, i.e., French reluctance to accept the position, favored by the Federal Republic, that German advisers should attend the proposed conference. Agreement on the formula which appears as the last paragraph of the United States reply, and which is identical in the British and French replies, was reached during the final consultations in Paris. The other operative paragraphs, i.e., the two preceding the last sentence, are also identical in the notes of the Three Powers. The text of the United States reply is attached at Tab A (POLTO 2319, Feb. 15, Section One).

With regard to the instructions to the Ambassadors in Moscow, the Working Group was unable to reach agreement on what the Ambassadors should say if asked what was meant by the term "German advisers." An agreement was finally reached on this in Paris on the basis of a suggestion made by the Department. The text of the instructions to the Ambassadors is attached at Tab B (POLTO 2319, Feb. 15, Section Two).

The Working Group also approved a common Press Guidance which will be used in connection with inquiries relating to the replies to the Soviet note of January 10, 1959. The text of this is attached at Tab C. A Press Release on the meetings of the Working Group, which was approved and released on February 13, stated that the Group expects to reassemble in Paris early in March to continue its work. A copy is attached at Tab D.

During its remaining sessions the Working Group considered questions of substance which might arise during a conference with the Soviets on the German problem. A fairly successful effort was made to encourage discussion, on an informal and personal basis, of these substantive questions. The Working Group developed and approved a paper, in the form of summary statements and a questionnaire, which is designed to assist the Governments in preparing positions on the issues outlined. A copy is attached at Tab E. A Department telegram which

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summarizes the substantive discussions of the Working Group is attached at Tab F. A full record of the Working Group meetings is available if you wish to review it.

A number of other documents, including a declaration by the German delegation, were also circulated within the Working Group, but have not been attached to this report.

cc: The Secretary
The Acting Secretary
W - Mr. Dillon
G - Mr. Murphy
S/P- Mr. Smith
P - Mr. Berding
H - Mr. Macomber
OSD:ISA - Col. Harris (2 copies)

Clearance:
GER - Mr. Hillenbrand

EUR:GER:GEA:WAllen:mm
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